

**Catawba County Board of Health
Minutes
September 8, 2015**

The Catawba County Board of Health met on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. The regular meeting of the Board of Health convened at 7:00 p.m. at Catawba County Public Health, 3070 11th Av Dr SE, Hickory, NC 29602 in the Boardroom.

Members present: Mr. John Dollar, Vice-Chair
Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner
Dr. David C. Hamilton, Jr.
Ms. Brenda Watson
Ms. Naomi East
Dr. Sharon Monday
Dr. David L. Harvey
Ms. Dana H. Greene

Members Absent: Mr. William Mixon, Chair
Dr. Matthew Davis
Mr. Brian Potocki

Staff present: Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director
Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director
Ms. Jennifer McCracken, Health Services Manager
Mr. Mike Cash, Environmental Health Supervisor
Ms. Julie Byrd, WIC Nutrition Supervisor
Ms. Sarah Rhodes, Interim Home Health Manager
Ms. Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager
Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant III

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Dollar Vice-Chair called the meeting of the Catawba County Public Health Board to order at 7:00p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. John Dollar Vice-Chair stated that the agenda for the September 8, 2015, meeting of the Board of Health was included in the packet and he asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Dollar asked for a motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Mr. Dan Hunsucker so moved and Ms. Naomi East seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for August 3, 2015, were included in the Board packet. Mr. John Dollar Vice-Chair asked if there were any corrections, hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dr. Sharon Monday made a motion to accept the August 3, 2015 minutes as presented and Dr. David Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dollar asked if anyone presented to speak before the Board. Ms. Martha Knox, Administrative Assistant III, stated that no one had presented to speak.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Dan Hunsucker, County Commissioner, stated that the Board of Commissioners met on this date and shared the following items:

- The Board presented the Catawba County Purchasing Department with the 2014 Sustained Professional Purchasing Award. This award is presented annually by the Carolinas Association of Governmental Purchasing to member agencies that have demonstrated excellence in purchasing standards. This is the fourteenth year in which this award has been received by the department.
- The Board recognized seven County employees who are graduating from the County's Leadership Academy. The graduates were April Green (Library), Dawn Hughey (Social Services), Jennifer McCracken (Public Health), Amy McDonald (Human Resources), Jodi Stewart (County Manager's Office), Christina Triplett (Social Services) and Karyn Yaussy (Emergency Services). These employees were identified to have leadership potential and over the last year have developed their skills by expanding their understanding of leadership and management responsibilities through participation in professional development opportunities, book studies, networking and team-building opportunities, development and completion of a team project, a Reading Garden at the main County Library in Newton, and the successful completion of six County-sponsored academic modules.

Mr. Hunsucker asked Ms. Jennifer McCracken to share with the Board about her experience. Ms. McCracken stated that the Leadership Academy was very rewarding and required a commitment from participants over the year from October, 2014 – October 2015. The Leadership Academy is a Catawba County program and is lead by the Catawba County Human Resources department.

- The Board of Commissioners also approved the Use policy for the Catawba County Libraries. The Board adopted a revised Catawba County Library Meeting Room Use Policy to allow the community access to meeting room spaces for nonprofit educational, civic, and community meetings that are open to the public. North Carolina Public Library Standards include a benchmark that library facilities are designed to maximize opportunities for community collaboration and provide meeting rooms and other spaces for community programs and events.

The revised policy also clarifies the type of gatherings that are permitted, allowing for nonprofit educational, civic, and community use that is open to the public, includes provisions to ensure fair and equitable use that does not interfere with others' ability to enjoy library facilities and services, and limits eligible uses to activities that are not commercial, political, religious, or social in nature.

Every effort was made to strike an appropriate balance between promoting community access and exercising responsible stewardship of public resources by maintaining the security of the facility. Staff will track facility use reservations, recording the names of individuals and groups that use the rooms and the estimated number of people who have benefited, and will report this back to the Board three months after implementation, with discussion of any issues that have arisen.

- The Board approved a bid award for a Landfill Gas Equipment Station to SCS Field Services of Reston, Virginia in the amount of \$1,068,500; authorized the sole source exemption and purchase of a DIA.NE XT3 Engine Control System Upgrade and Fuel Blending Package from Nixon Energy Solutions in the amount of \$489,498; approved an agreement with the project design engineer, CDM Smith, for construction administration, inspection, and start-up, commissioning, and certification services for \$49,300; and approved a budget revision in the amount of \$950,148 for a project total of \$1,714,148, which includes an additional \$106,850 for a 10% construction contingency.

The replacement of both the landfill gas compression skid and flare and the DIA.NE Engine Control System were planned Solid Waste Capital Improvement Projects. Initially, staff planned to replace the landfill gas compression skid and flare and the DIA.NE Engine Control System as separate projects. However, updating the equipment together increases the efficiency and operability of the new landfill gas compression skid and flare. Staff believes it is in the County's best interest to accelerate the

replacement of the DIA.NE Engine Control System in order to fully optimize the overall landfill gas to energy system and ensure adherence to applicable environmental permits.

This ended Mr. Hunsucker's report to the Board.

FLU UPDATE AND PLAN FOR 2015-16

Ms. Kelly Isenhour, Assistant Health Director, gave the report on the 2014-15 Flu Season and the Plan for the 2015-16 Flu Season. Ms. Isenhour stated that there were 773 total vaccines given in 2014-15 (111 high dose, 338 paid seasonal doses and 324 State supplied). The 2014-15 Flu season was severe for people 65 and older especially – deaths were associated with long term care outbreaks. (See Minutes Attachment I)

Flu related deaths were within the expected boundaries for the H3N2 dominant strain. 97% of the deaths were type A and 34% were unvaccinated against the flu.

218 deaths related to the flu occurred in North Carolina and 83% were 65 years of age or older. 7 deaths were documented in Catawba County and all of those deaths were 18 years or older.

2015-16 Flu Season Plan

Ms. Isenhour stated that timing of the flu season remains very unpredictable, and peaks in the United States between December – February. It is anticipated that the flu vaccine will be available in ample supply to the general public. She stated that physicians, pharmacies and businesses have been proactive to administer the flu vaccine and this benefits the community with more opportunities to receive the vaccine.

Catawba County Public Health receives State vaccine for the VFC eligible and uninsured pregnant women receiving maternity and Public Health Family Planning services. This vaccine is given without cost to those eligible.

Ms. Isenhour stated that Public Health will be giving the quadrivalent flu vaccine during the 2015-16 Flu seasons, which will contain the following strains:

- * A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- * A/Switzerland/971593/2013 (H3N2)-like virus
- * B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.
- * B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

The priority for Catawba County Public Health will be the older population over 65 and population with limited or no access to vaccine (VFC) eligible, and those pregnant during the flu season or those with Family Planning waiver.

2015-16 Distribution Plan

- ❖ 200 doses of regular Quadrivalent has been ordered for purchase and 100 High Dose (65+ only)
- ❖ 340 doses of State supplied vaccines – single/prefilled syringes and flu mist (VFC only)
- ❖ Public Health has planned a "Flu Blitz" – scheduling 2 walk-in clinics for October 8th and 9th. The plan is to utilize the existing Immunization clinic appt schedule to schedule appointments after those two dates and to vaccinate children.
- ❖ The team will continue to evaluate and adjust Immunization appointments to accommodate the need for flu vaccinations.

See (Minutes Attachment I) for more information on cost and payment information.

Ms. Isenhour asked Ms. Amy McCauley, Community Outreach Manager, to share information concerning the promotion of the 2015-16 Flu Campaign. Ms. McCauley stated that a flyer is created every year and advertising the walk-in clinics and these are distributed in the community. A news release is sent to the local paper, articles are sent to local churches for their church bulletins, updated website with the most current flu campaign

information, and on the Public Health Facebook page, the information is distributed in English and Spanish language. Call alert system is also used to remind clients that received the flu vaccination last year.

Dr. Sharon Monday asked about the school compliance issue with immunizations this year. Dr. Monday stated that she has been trying to get the Meningococcal vaccination for her daughter and her physician has been out of the vaccine for about 3 weeks. Ms. Isenhour stated that she was unaware of a shortage of that vaccine.

Ms. Jennifer McCracken stated that Jennifer Lindsay, School Nurse Supervisor, based on the feedback from the school nurses is that the compliance is higher this year for student's vaccination rates. However, there are always a few children that require follow-up. She stated that the campaign last January has made a difference in reducing the children out of compliance on the 1st day of school. Ms. Isenhour stated that a report will be prepared for the Board at a later meeting on this issue.

Mr. Doug Urland, Health Director, stated that in the past Catawba County Public Health distributed a larger number of flu vaccines to the general public. He stated that 11 years ago public health distributed over 10,000 flu vaccines. The number has dwindled over the years due to pharmacies, physician's practices, and work places providing vaccine. Public Health's role has been to ensure that the public gets the vaccine and to educate the public about prevention. Therefore, we promote the message that no matter where you receive the vaccine, make sure that you and your families are protected. Public Health continues to evolve and change as a public health entity. So for example with flu shots, it's now less about the direct provision of flu vaccine and more about disseminating information in the community for prevention of disease.

Mr. Urland added, that the highly pathogenic Avian flu that is being talked about at this time, with the bird population that may be at risk. Nothing has been identified as a danger to the human population at this time, however, Public Health have been made aware of it and most of the problems have been in Iowa and Minnesota. Public Health and NC Department of Agriculture continue to monitor the situation here in North Carolina. Dr. David Harvey asked if NC Agriculture has a surveillance program and Mr. Urland stated that they do. There is also webinars to keep public health informed. The disease is very devastating to the flocks that must be culled when the disease is discovered.

Dr. Sharon Monday stated the avian flu will be here in North Carolina. Ms. Isenhour stated that on September 11th there will be a meeting Burke county, and the regional meetings are scheduled all over the State regarding flocks and registering them. She added that Public Health will be monitoring workers that travel to assist with flocks elsewhere and ensuring that they are disease free. Mr. Hunsucker asked of Public Health will have any direct oversight of any flocks that are moved to NC. Mr. Urland stated Public Health does not and NC Department of Agriculture is coordinating these efforts. He stated one of the impacts is the economic impact and how that will affect flock owners and employees, regarding their physical, mental and emotional health.

Dr. Sharon Monday stated that if a diagnosis is confirmed in a flock the whole flock will be depopulated. Mr. Urland stated that is correct, and stated that his understanding is the earlier the decision is made the better financially for the farmer, due to the federal reimbursements they can receive. Mr. Urland added that Public Health is prepared to answer questions from the public concerning dead birds and whether the cause of the bird's death can lead to influenza in humans.

HOME HEALTH GOVERNING BODY AND ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. John Dollar, Vice-Chair, asked for a motion to leave regular session of the Catawba County Board of Health and reconvene as the Home Health Governing Body and Advisory Board. Dr. Sharon Monday so moved and Dr. David Harvey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Sharon Monday made a motion to return to the regular session of the Catawba County Board of Health. Ms. Brenda Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GRANT FUNDS

The Grant Funds report is tabled until October meeting.

HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Urland reported that as of this meeting the State Budget has still not been passed. The conferees have been meeting and there is a baseline level of dollars, but not details at this time. Public Health will continue to monitor this closely.

There is continued discussion of potential Medicaid reform. Mr. Urland stated that there are a few good items for Public Health and he will update the Board when the budget is finalized. Dr. Harvey asked if there was any lobbyist working in behalf of Public Health. Mr. Urland stated that both the NC Local Health Director's Association and the County Commissioners Association have an ongoing dialogue with legislators.

Home Health – Mr. Urland commended Ms. Sarah Rhodes for her efforts in the Interim Home Health Manager position. Mr. Urland met with Home Health staff in August and informed them of the plan to sell the agency. There currently are three entities that are doing due diligence and all were very favorable to opportunities for employment for existing staff.

Dr. Harvey asked about the process for selling the Home Health agency and Mr. Urland stated that two of the three entities have made site visits and that by September 15th he expects to hear an answer from all three. After that the public process will begin.

Catawba Family Dentistry(CFD)- The transition from our Catawba County Public Health Dental Practice to the Catawba Family Dentistry (CFD) began on September 1, 2015. On September 2nd, the CFD began providing services to children and pregnant women. A fulltime dentist will be joining the practice on October 1st. Once the practice is fully staffed and up and running the next group that will receive services will be the indigent adult population.

There will be a sliding fee scale for patients and all four of the Catawba County Dental staff were offered and accepted employment with the practice. They wear different colored scrubs now but continue to offer the same level of services as previously.

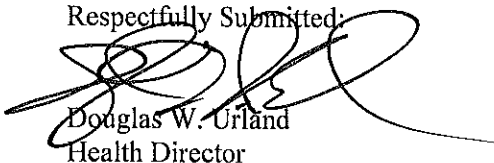
Ms. Rhonda Stikeleather, Children's Services Nursing Supervisor, will be the liaison with the CFD for reports to Public Health on the services being provided. This transition of providing dental services to the community is another example of the changing public health environment and leveraging resources to provide services.

Public Health Director's evaluation process – Mr. Urland stated that the Board members would be receiving an email from the County Manager's office with a Survey Monkey survey in the process of the evaluation of the Health Director. This will be considered at the October meeting in a closed session.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hearing no further business, Mr. Dollar stated that the next meeting of the Board of Health would be held on Monday, October 5, 2015. Dr. David Harvey made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Sharon Monday seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Douglas W. Urland
Health Director

DWU: mjk